

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03

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TRSE-00 SAJ-01 DODE-00 H-02 NSC-05 OES-06 NSF-02

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FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7261

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 USNATO 2384

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: NATO, NAC, TGEN

SUBJ: MAY 6 NAC - VII. ANNUAL REPORT TO THE COUNCIL FOR 1975 BY
THE NATO SCIENCE COMMITTEE

REF: C-M(76)16

MISSION COMMENT: REFD0C (RECENTLY POUCHED TO DEPT/HEMILY, BUT TEXT PROVIDED BELOW) IS FIRST ANNUAL SCIENCE COMMITTEE (SCL REPORT TO NAC, WHICH HAS BEEN APPROVED BY SC AND WHICH NAC IS ASKED TO NOTE. REPORT STEMS FROM PROPOSAL BY SIR SAM EDWARDS, UK REP TO SC, WHICH WAS FIRST DISCUSSED AT OCTOBER 5-7, 1975 SC MEETING IN REYKJAVIK (SEE 1975 USNATO 5550 AND ITEM XI, A, OF STATE 235924). LAST TIME NAC TOOK COMPREHENSIVE LOOK AT SCIENCE PROGRAM WAS IN SEPT 1972 WHEN ITS CONSENSUS - IN WHICH US JOINED FULLY - WAS THAT "CONTINUING SUPPORT FOR THE NATO SCIENCE PROGRAM WAS AN IMPORTANT INVESTMENT FOR THE FUTURE AND WAS IN FULFILLMENT OF THE AIMS OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY." (SEE C-R(72)40 OF SEPT 8, 1972). WE BELIEVE THAT US SHOULD WELCOME INITIATION OF THIS NEW ANNUAL SC REPORT AS PROVIDING USEFUL (AND GRATIFYINGLY COMPACT) RESUME OF CURRENT SCOPE OF NATO SCIENCE PROGRAM, HELPFULLY POINTING UP AGAIN PROGRAM'S GREAT VALUE TO ALLIANCE. RECOMMEND WE ALSO TAKE OPPORTUNITY TO REITERATE FIRM U.S. SUPPORT FOR WORK OF NATO
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SCIENCE COMMITTEE ALONG LINES OF TRIBUTE PAID TO IT IN LETTER SENT LAST OCT BY US REP TO SC -
AND THE COMMITTEE DOYEN - PROF. ISIDOR RABI, TO AMBASSADOR BRUCE (STATE 250561), REGARDING SUCCESSFUL SC MEETING IN REY-

KJAVIK, WHICH MISSION CIRCULATED AT TIME TO SYG LUNS AND THE OTHER
PERMREPS.

BEGIN TEXT OF REPORT:

BEGIN TEXT:

ANNUAL REPORT TO THE COUNCIL FOR 1975 BY THE
NATO SCIENCE COMMITTEE

1. INTRODUCTION

THE SCIENCE COMMITTEE WELCOMES THE OPPORTUNITY TO
PUT AN ACCOUNT OF ITS ACTIVITIES BEFORE THE COUNCIL SINCE IT
FEELS THAT THE PRESENT WORLD ECONOMIC CRISIS BRINGS PARTICULAR

EMPHASIS TO THE ROLE OF SCIENCE IN OUR WESTERN SOCIETY IN
GENERAL AND IN NATO IN PARTICULAR.

THE SCIENCE COMMITTEE WAS BROUGHT INTO EXISTENCE IN
1958 IN RESPONSE TO A WIDE SPREAD FEELING THAT THE ALLIANCE HAD
ITS ROOTS MORE DEEPLY THAN SOLELY IN A MILITARY ALLIANCE WAS
INDEED SOMETHING TO ACKNOWLEDGE AND SUSTAIN. NATO RECOGNISED
THEN, AS IS THE CASE NOW, THAT WHATEVER VICISSITUDES TAKE PLACE
IN THE POLITICAL AND TERRITORIAL FORTUNES OF THE ALLIANCE, ITS
GREAT AND CONSISTENT STRENGTH HAS BEEN IN THE POWER OF ITS
TECHNOLOGY. THIS TECHNOLOGY IS SUSTAINED BY SCIENTIFIC EXCELLENCE
AND PRODUCTIVITY OF NEW IDEAS, IN WHICH THE FREE WORLD OF THE
WESTERN DEMOCRACIES HAS CONSISTENTLY SHOWN ITSELF SUPERIOR TO
THOSE POWERS OPPOSING THE ALLIES. WE BELIEVE THE MAINTENANCE
OF THIS SUPERIORITY TO BE A FIRST PRIORITY OF THE ALLIANCE AND
FEEL THAT THE ACTIVITIES BRIEFLY REPORTED ON BELOW PROMOTE
SCIENTIFIC COLLABORATION AMONG THE ALLIES IN A WAY NOT ATTEMPTED
BY ANY OTHER ORGANIZATION, AND THROUGH THIS COLLABORATION ENABLES
ACTIVITIES TO TAKE PLACE WHICH IF PURSUED IN A PURELY NATIONAL
OR BINATIONAL FORM WOULD PROVE DISTINCTLY MORE EXPENSIVE AND
LESS EFFICIENT. ALTHOUGH THERE HAVE BEEN SOME REDUCTIONS IN THE
DOMESTIC SCIENCE BUDGETS OF THE NATIONS IN NATO, THE STEADY
EROSION OF THE NATO SCIENCE COMMITTEE'S BUDGET HAS LED TO AN
EXTREMELY SEVERE REDUCTION IN THE INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMME THAT
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COMMITTEE SUSTAINS, AND INDEED THE REDUCTION IN REAL TERMS HAS
REDUCED THE BUDGET TO ONE HALF OF WHAT IT WAS OVER A DECADE
AGO. ONE COULD INDEED MAKE A CASE FOR A HIGHER INTERNATIONAL
BUDGET WHEN NATIONAL BUDGETS REDUCE ON THE GROUND OF THE GREATER
COST EFFECTIVENESS OF COLLABORATIVE WORK.

AT A TIME WHEN COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN EAST AND WEST
ARE BEING EXPANDED IT IS UNTHINKABLE THAT THE INTERNAL CO-
OPERATION WITHIN THE WESTERN ALLIANCE SHOULD BE WEAKENED.

2. THE WORK OF THE SCIENCE COMMITTEE

THERE ARE FIVE MAIN ACTIVITIES PROMOTED BY THE COMMITTEE.
THESE WILL BE BRIEFLY DESCRIBED HERE, AND WE WILL THEN GIVE A

MORE DETAILED ACCOUNT OF ONE OF THEM, THE ADVANCED STUDY INSTITUTES, TO OFFER AN EXAMPLE IN DEPTH OF WHAT THE COMMITTEE AIMS TO DO. IN ADDITION THE COMMITTEE SUPPORTS SPECIAL EVENT WHICH FROM TIME TO TIME APPEAR OPPORTUNE; FOR EXAMPLE THE ARMAND REPORT (1960), VARIOUS SPECIAL CONFERENCES (1967-76) AND THE STUDY GROUP ON POTENTIALLY SCARCE METALS (1975-76).

THE MAIN ACTIVITIES ARE:

2.1 THE RESEARCH GRANTS PROGRAMME BY WHICH GRANTS ARE MADE TO INDIVIDUALS OR TEAMS OF RESEARCH WORKERS, THEIR APPLICATIONS BEING JUDGED BY INTERNATIONALLY CHOSEN REFEREES. PARTICULAR EMPHASIS IS PLACED ON INTERNATIONAL CONTACT BETWEEN SCIENTISTS, AND PROJECTS WHICH DO NOT FIT EASILY INTO A NATIONAL SUPPORT SYSTEM. IN THE LAST YEAR 368 APPLICATIONS WERE MADE OF WHICH 259 WERE FUNDED, BUT AT ONLY A FRACTION OF THE LEVEL REQUESTED. OVERALL B.FR. 119 M WERE REQUESTED; ONLY B.FR. 40 M WERE AWARDED.

2.2 THE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME PERMITS SCIENTISTS TO BE EXCHANGED BETWEEN THE NATIONS OF THE ALLIANCE. THE PROGRAMME IS OPERATED BY THE VARIOUS NATIONS BUT BY BEING CENTRALLY MONITORED BRINGS A CROSS FERTILIZATION OF THE SCIENTIFIC WORK OF THE NATIONS WHICH WOULD BE MOST COMPLEX TO ARRANGE ON A BILATERAL BASIS. THERE WERE 669 FELLOWSHIPS AWARDED IN 1973, BUT OWING TO CHANGES IN THE VALUE OF MONEY, THE APPROXIMATE CONSTANCY OF THE BUDGET OVER THE LAST DECADE HAS LED TO A SUBSTANTIAL FALL IN THE NUMBER OF FELLOWS AND THE TIME SPENT IN THE FELLOWSHIP, BOTH BY ABOUT HALF.

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2.3 THE SPECIAL PROGRAMME PANELS. WHEREAS THE RESEARCH GRANTS ARE INITIATED BY INVESTIGATORS, THERE ARE SPEICIAL AREAS DESIGNATED BY THE COMMITTEE WHICH AS A RESULT OF CAREFUL STUDY HAVE BEEN DEEMED TO BE WORTHY OF A SPECIAL INTERNATIONAL EFFORT.

THE PANELS OF INDIVIDUAL EXPERTS ADVISING ON THESE PROGRAMMES CAN RECOMMEND AND DEVELOP RESEARCH GRANTS, SYMPOSIA, EXCHANGE VISITS, SPECIAL STUDIES, ETC. THE PROGRAMMES NORMALLY LAST FOR A FEW YEARS AND WHEN THE PARTICULAR INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION THEY ARE MENT TO FOSTER IS WELL ESTABLISHED, THEY ARE TERMINATED. AT PRESENT THERE ARE FIVE PROGRAMMES: MARINE SCIENCES, ECO-SCIENCES, AIR-SEA INTERACTION, SYSTEMS SCIENCE AND HUMAN FACTORS.

2.4 THE SENIOR SCIENTISTS PROGRAMME IS A SMALL BUT USEFUL FUND GIVING SUPPORT FOR SENIOR SCIENTISTS TO WORK WITH COLLEAGUES IN OTHER NATIONS OF THE ALLIANCE IN THE GENERAL FURTHERANCE OF THE COMMITTEE'S AIM.

2.5 THE ADVANCED STUDY INSTITUTES ARE DEALT WITH IN SOME GREATER DETAIL IN THE NEXT SECTION.

3. THE ADVANCED STUDY INSTITUTES
IT MUST BE RECORDED FROM THE START THAT THIS PROGRAMME HAS BEEN OUTSTANDINGLY SUCCESSFUL. IT WAS CREATED TO ENABLE SCIENTISTS, PARTICULARLY YOUNG PEOPLE ESTABLISHING THEMSELVES, UNCLASSIFIED

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TO GET TOGETHER WITHOUT THE HASTE OF NORMAL CONFERENCE ORGANIZATION TO HEAR LEADING WORKERS LECTURE IN DEPTH ON THEIR WORK AND TO CONTRIBUTE THEMSELVES TO A MAJOR REAPPRAISAL OF A FIELD, CHOSEN BECAUSE IT LIES IN AN AREA OF NEW AND SIGNIFICANT KNOWLEDGE. ABOUT FORTY-FIVE INSTITUTES ARE HELD EACH YEAR AND THEIR DELIBERATIONS ARE PUBLISHED IN AN AUTHORITATIVE SERIES OF BOOKS GIVING AN UP-TO-DATE "STATE OF THE ART" REVIEW OF A FIELD.

THE EXCELLENCE OF THIS PROGRAMME IS UNIVERSALLY ACKNOWLEDGED, AND MEMBERSHIP OF THE INSTITUTES IS OVERSUBSCRIBED. MANY VISITORS FROM NON-NATO COUNTRIES ALSO TAKE PART. IT IS NOTICEABLE THAT AT A TIME WHEN A GREAT DEAL OF MISGUIDED CRITICISM OF NATO TAKES PLACE IN ACADEMIC CIRCLES, THIS HAS NOT MANIFESTED ITSELF AMONG THE PARTICIPANTS OF THE INSTITUTES.

A FEW EXAMPLES ILLUSTRATE THE SCOPE OF THE INSTITUTES:

READ IN THREE COLUMNS: ORGANIZER, SUBJECT, PLACE
PROF. H.H. BRONGERSMA THE NETHERLANDS, HIGH ENERGY CHEMICAL SPECTROSCOPY AND PHOTOCHEMISTRY, THE NETHERLANDS
DR. K. CURI TURKEY, THE TREATMENT OF BIOLOGICAL WASTE WATER, TURKEY
PROF. F.T. ARECCHI ITALY, COHERENT OPTICAL ENGINEERING, ITALY
DR. F. L. RILEY UK, NITROGEN CERAMICS, UK
DR. S. FONER USA, SMALL-SCALE APPLICATIONS OF SUPERCONDUCTIVITY, ITALY
PROF. J.H. WEIL FRANCE, NUCLEIC ACIDS AND PROTEIN SYNTHESIS IN PLANTS, FRANCE

IN ALL FOR 1976 THIRTY-EIGHT APPLICATIONS WERE ACCEPTED FROM THE EIGHT-THREE APPLICANTS, AND AWARD OF B.FR. 40 M OUT OF A REQUEST OF B.FR. 94 M. THE AWARDED PANEL, WHO ARE IN RECEIPT OF EXTENSIVE REPORTS FROM INTERNATIONAL REFEREES, HAVE STRONGLY MADE THE POINT THAT THEY WERE ABLE TO FUND ONLY THESE THIRTY-EIGHT, AND SEVERAL OF THOSE REJECTED WERE OF HIGH QUALITY AND PRECLUDED SOLELY BY THE LACK OF FINANCE.

4. CONCLUSION

THE DIFFERENT NATIONS OF THE ALLIANCE USE, AND BENEFIT FROM, THE SCIENCE PROGRAMME IN DIFFERENT WAYS, GIVING UNCLASSIFIED

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DIFFERENT EMPHASIS TO THE VARIOUS ACTIVITIES LISTED ABOVE. THE SCIENCE COMMITTEE HOPE THAT THE COUNCIL WILL FROM THIS REPORT GET THE FLAVOUR OF THEIR WORK AND APPRECIATE THE KIND OF STRINGENCY UNDER WHICH THE COMMITTEE FINDS ITSELF HAVING TO WORK. THE PECULIAR WAY IN WHICH THE BUDGET OF THE COMMITTEE IS PLACED IN COMPETITION WITH THE GENERAL ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET OF NATO LEADS TO PRESSURES AND FLUCTUATIONS WHICH HAVE LED IN TURN TO AN INHIBITION OF THE COMMITTEE'S SUPPORT FOR SCIENCE AMONG THE MEMBER OF THE ALLIANCE, AND IS A POINT WHICH THE COMMITTEE MEMBERS OF THE ALLIANCE, AND IS A POINT WHICH THE COMMITTEE WISHES ESPECIALLY TO BRING TO THE COUNCIL'S ATTENTION. THE COMMITTEE WISHES TO RECORD ITS APPRECIATION OF THE FACT THAT NATO IS INDEED AN ALLIANCE OF EFFECT IN MANY AREAS OF IMPORTANCE. IF THE PROPER MEANS ARE GRANTED THE COMMITTEE FEELS IT CAN PRODUCE A SUBSTANTIAL AND BENEFICIAL EFFECT ON SCIENCE IN THE ALLIANCE.

(SIGNED) M.N. OZDAS, CHAIRMAN
END TEXT. STRAUSS-HUPE

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